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Dear Sirs,

As a resident of Hadley Wood for over 35 years, I wish to object very strongly to the proposed release of this green belt site and the site allocation for the development of 160 homes on green belt land, and to urge the Council to reconsider its decision. The main reasons for my objection are as follows:

1. This is an unnecessary large scale destruction of Green Belt.

The Local Plan proposes a quarter of the 25,000 new homes to be built on Green Belt land, in breach of national policies, the London Plan and Enfield's own Climate Change Action Plan. To build 25% of the new homes on Green Belt land cannot be justified. There is no justification why 160 out of the 25,000 homes should be built on the Hadley Wood site when such a small number of homes could easily be found outside the green belt.

The green belt helps to contain urban sprawl, enhance the health and physical and mental well-being of residents who live nearby, and give Hadley Wood a sense of identity and community. The land forms part of an absolutely stunning landscape which goes well beyond the borough boundary and includes the green belt in other boroughs. I belong to a group of friends who are keen walkers and greatly enjoy this area of unspoilt countryside as we walk along Bartrams Lane and the Crescent.

2. Increased housing in Hadley Wood is not 'sustainable development'.

Hadley Wood is a car dependent neighbourhood since local public transport links are extremely poor and local amenities (GP, post office, pharmacy, shopping, schooling, leisure) are lacking. The train service from Hadley Wood into Moorgate is very variable and the bus service infrequent. But it is the lack of infrastructure which in particular makes intensification of the land near the station wholly inappropriate. In addition, the land is prone to flooding due to inadequate sewers/drainage.

3. The Local Plan fails to develop/prioritise all brownfield sites. The Local Plan does not have a settlement hierarchy or prioritisation of brownfield sites. The Council has not even included any of their landholdings or estates, which is surprising, given they must be the largest single landowner in the borough.

4. The Site is surrounded by Grade II listed buildings and Conservation Areas and should be protected as part of those Conservation Areas.

The site is sandwiched between the Hadley Wood Conservation Area and the Monken Hadley Conservation Area, with Grade II listed buildings on Camlet Way. The Plan's proposals will adversely impact the setting, character and appearance of those heritage assets. The Council has not produced any evidence to assess the level of harm and should therefore not be allocating the site without such evidence. The land should be regarded as integral to the existing Conservation Areas and given appropriate protection for that designation.

5. Heritage and recreation

The land has important historical connections in relation to ancient county boundaries and the only registered battlefield in Greater London (the Battle of Barnet fought on 14/04/1471). It should be protected for the public benefit and as a place of recreation (for the enjoyment of walkers and anyone interested in flora and fauna) and education (for those of school age and older who value the shared local heritage and history). It will be essential in any event for a detailed archeological survey of the land to be carried out before any building works are allowed.

6. Environmental – the proposal is incompatible with the Council's Climate Change Action Plan. The concreting over of green space, the damage to the land's biodiversity, and drainage problems resulting from the proposed development will inevitably cause environmental harm and set an extremely bad precedent.

I therefore urge the Council to change the Local Plan to retain the green belt in this location and remove the site allocation.

Yours faithfully,

